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Identical letters dated 17 February 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I write following another week in which Israeli citizens felt the evil of terrorism inside our country and around the world. As terrorist attacks shook cities from Bangkok to Tbilisi to New Delhi — rockets continued to rain out of the Gaza Strip, exploding in communities throughout southern Israel.

In letter after letter, I have made clear that the rockets fired from Gaza could ignite an escalation of conflict in our already volatile region. Yet, the Security Council has still not uttered a single syllable of condemnation against them.

In the past two weeks alone, 11 rockets were fired from Gaza into Israeli cities, landing in the areas of Sha'ar Hanegev, Sdot Hanegev, Eshkol and Ashkelon.

Today, terrorists fired two rockets into southern Israel — and attacked an Israel Defense Forces border patrol, using rocket propelled grenades and an improvised explosive device.

On the evening of 10 February 2012, two rockets were fired into the communities of Kibbutz Zikim and Kibbutz Alumim, injuring a woman. It is only by chance that these attacks did not cause a much larger tragedy, considering that one rocket exploded between two fully occupied homes as the residents were observing the Sabbath.

It is high time that the Security Council condemned these attacks fully and unequivocally, not only as grave violations of international law but also as serious threats to regional peace and security. Israel expects the Security Council, and all responsible members of the international community, to condemn the relentless rocket fire from Gaza without any further delay.

Each of these attacks reveals the character and intentions of the Hamas terrorist organization, which remains in de facto control of Gaza and continues to be supported, funded and armed by the Iranian regime. Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh made this clear during his visit to Iran this week, when he said that "we can obtain our goals only through fighting and armed resistance".

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Israel holds the Hamas terrorist organization fully responsible for all attacks emanating from Gaza. Israel has exercised and will continue to exercise its right to self-defence, as appropriate, and will take all necessary measures to protect its citizens.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ron **Prosor**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative